PACIFIC LUTHERAN
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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Chicago Home Mission Number

Lutheran Observer.

Unless with proofs of Holy Writ, or with manifest, clear and distinct principles and arguments, I am refuted and convinced, I can and will recant nothing.—Luther.

In Essentials, Unity; in Non-Essentials, Liberty; in all Things, Charity.

Vol. LXXVII. No. 44 LANCASTER AND PHILADELPHIA, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1909. Whole Number 3954

Poetry.

THE PURE IN HEART.

BY ALICE CARY.

I asked the angels in my prayer,
With bitter tears and pains,
To show mine eyes the kingdom where
The Lord of glory reigns.

I said, my way with doubt is dim,
My heart is sick with fear;
Oh come, and help me build to him
A tabernacle here.

The storms of sorrow wildly beat,
The clouds with death are chill;
I long to hear his voice so sweet,
Who whispered, "Peace, be still!"

The angels said, God giveth you
His love—what more is ours?
And even as the gentle dew
Descends upon the flowers,

His grace descends; and, as of old,
He walks with man apart,
Keeping the promise as foretold,
With all the pure in heart.

Thou needest not ask the angels where
His habitations be;
Keep thou thy spirit clean and fair,
And he shall dwell with thee.

SALUTATION.

BY RUTH STERRY.

Did you choose the journey, friend?
No, nor I;
But to make it cheerfully,
Let us try.
When the day is dark, I pray,
Sing a song to cheer the way,
For to-morrow we will be
One day nearer to the sea.

Did you choose the journey, friend?
No, nor I;
But we know the end will come
By and by.
All to-day we bear the load
Up the weary winding road,
But to-morrow we may be
At the Inn in company.

THE REST WE SEEK.

BY HENRY VAN DYKE.

If all the skies were sunshine,
Our faces would be fain
To feel once more upon them
The cooling plash of rain.

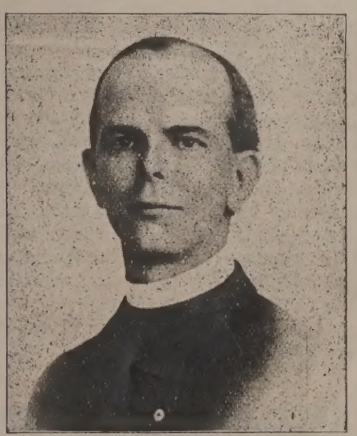
If all the world were music
Our hearts would often long
For one sweet strain of silence
To break the endless song.

If life were always merry,
Our souls would seek relief,
And rest from weary laughter
In the quiet arms of grief.

Chicago Home Missions.

BY REV. JOHN F. SEIBERT,
SYNODICAL MISSIONARY OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS SYNOD.

The Board of Home Missions requests a succinct setting forth of the mission work in Chicago, great metropolis of the Central West, and one of our most important Home Mission fields, with the hope of stimulating renewed interest in this fundamental cause on the coming Luther Day. Gladly do we acknowledge the splendid help of this Board in supporting a large number of missions in this wonderful city. We believe also the account herewith given of these several missions will convince all that the Home Mission money has been well expended, and that the Board should be provided with largely-increased funds that



REV. JOHN F. SEIBERT,
SYNODICAL MISSIONARY.

much more work of a like character may be inaugurated. Before giving a detailed account of our mission work I desire to call attention of the Church anew to the importance of

Chicago as a Home Mission Field.

Comparatively few of even our best-informed Lutherans really appreciate our opportunities or realize our responsibility in this feverishly-active metropolis of the interior. Chicago is literally teeming with Lutheran people. If it be true that nearly a half of the population is Roman Catholic, it is also true that more than a third of the Protestant population is from Lutheran sources. Competent statisticians say every fourth person you meet claims some allegiance to the Lutheran Church. Less than one-fourth of this great army, sufficient in itself to make a city as large as Greater Pittsburg, has in any way been churched. That does not mean that progress has been slow. In 1877 there were

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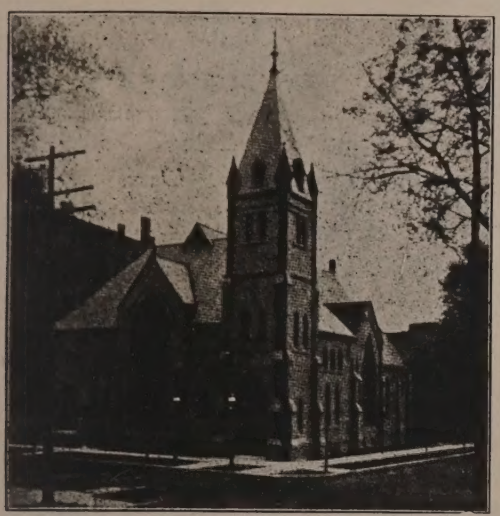
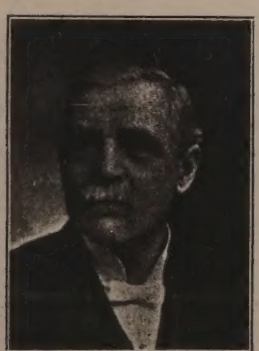
eighteen congregations in the city, and the Lutherans occupied the fourth place numerically among Protestants. To-day Chicago has become the most Lutheran of our large cities, and has at least 70,000 communicant members gathered in her 185 congregations, nearly double that of the Methodists, three times that of the Presbyterians, and more than double the Episcopalians. This is called the "windy" city; yet our Church has grown three times as rapidly as the population of the city, as given by even the most liberal estimates. When the Chicago Lutheran Seminary was opened eighteen



GRACE CHURCH.

years ago there were less than a half dozen English Lutheran churches here. To-day the General Synod has eleven, the General Council the same number, the Missourians two or three, the Norwegians three and the Swede-Augustana one, with two more mission points about to be developed. In addition a large number of the German and Scandanavian congregations use English in their services and Sunday-schools. But this number should be greatly increased. The importance of the city commercially, educationally, religiously and every way demands that English Lutheranism be made a power here if we are to become a



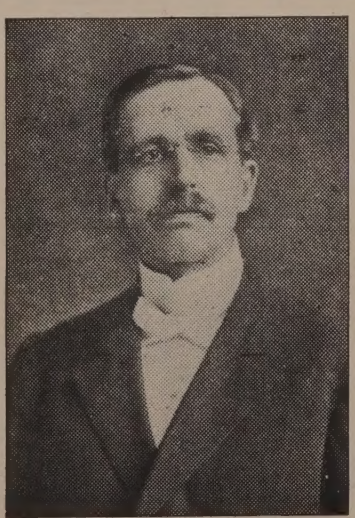
REV. T. F. DORNBLASER, D. D.

dominating religious force in the great Mississippi valley. In the great schools of law, medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and technology, the brightest of our young are trained and thence go everywhere in the Central West. We must retain them here in English churches and they then in turn will become strong forces for new congregations elsewhere. We rejoice in the growing appreciation of the paramount claims of the Home Mission Board, but we must progress still more rapidly.

RAVENSWOOD CHURCH.

The General Synod in Chicago.

Including Evanston the General Synod now has sixteen congregations, of which five use the German language in whole or in part. For years the progress of the work in both languages was slow, and to many throughout the borders of the Church quite discouraging. For a time some doubted whether the General Synod really had a mission to perform in Chicago. But a beginning had to be made, and the seed sown though it required years of effort and thousands of dollars to accomplish it. But for the generous support of the Boards the work of Grace church, the pioneer in our English field, could not have been continued. But the indefatigable labors of the Rev. Dr. Lee M. Heilman, in organizing the congregation and Sunday-school in 1882, of which Mr. Will M. Beck, now the superintendent of our African Mission work, was superintendent, and in building the beautiful church, have been rewarded. For this work the Rev. Dr. W. S. Hinman literally gave his life. Prayers, tears, heroic labor and great sums of money are to be counted as the price paid for the establishment of Grace church, which, under the pastorate of Rev. Dr. T. F. Dornblaser, has paid much of the cumbersome debt, become self-sustaining, increased in membership to a congregation of 400 confirmed members, with a Sunday-school of 387, and with a property valuation of $50,000.



REV. S. S. KAUFFMAN, D. D.

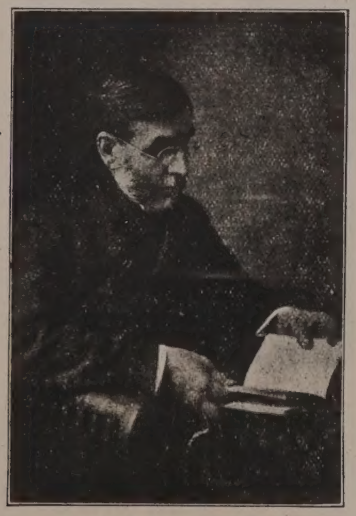
In the past ten years every English church except Grace has been established, and every one has been the beneficiary and still receives the aid of the Board of Home Missions. These churches in the order of their establishment are herewith given, not for vain-glory but in the hope that through it God may greatly cheer

IMMANUEL CHURCH.

the hearts of the ardent supporters of the Home Mission cause, and arouse the whole church to a greater appreciation of the necessity of doing her utmost on Luther Day for the support of this fundamental work.

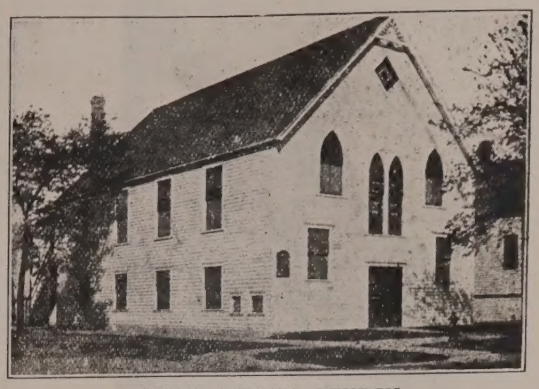
Ravenswood.

This church was organized by Rev. Richard Lazarus, April 22, 1897, with 33 members. Seventeen were



REV. B. F. GRENOBLE.

present at the first session of the Sunday-school. Rev. Lazarus served as supply pastor until the following October. The succeeding pastors have been Revs. F. W. Meyer, October 23, 1897 to January 1, 1903; D. P. Heltzel, January 1, 1903 to October, 1906; C. A. Britt,



CUYLER AVENUE CHURCH.

as supply, October, 1906 to February 1, 1907, and S. S. Kauffman, D. D., from that date. Lots were bought and the church built in 1898, the only indebtedness being $2,500 from the Church Extension Board. This amount was reduced $750 during Rev. Heltzel's pastorate, and has been entirely paid since Dr. Kauffman assumed charge. A fine parsonage was erected this year. The confirmed membership is 204; the Sunday-school has an average attendance of 238. The church is located in a most desirable residence section of the city, and the prospects for a strong congregation are bright.

Immanuel.

This mission is supported by the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society. The congregation was organized October 1, 1899, with 24 members. Rev. C. P. McLaughlin was the first pastor, and served until September 1, 1904. During his pastorate the lot, with cottage, which has been used as a parsonage, was bought for $5,200, and the church erected at a total cost of $11,800. The Rev. B. F. Grenoble became pastor November 1, 1904. Under his leadership the debt has been reduced about $2,000, and a further material reduction of the $5,460 yet unpaid is planned for this year. This church is located in a thickly-settled section of the south side, and draws its membership from a wide area. Steady and substantial progress is being made. The confirmed membership is 163, Sunday-school enrollment 157, and Men's Brotherhood 40.

Cuyler Avenue.

Attention was first directed to this and the adjoining field of St. Andrew's by Rev. R. Lazarus and the late

REV. J. R. ENGER.

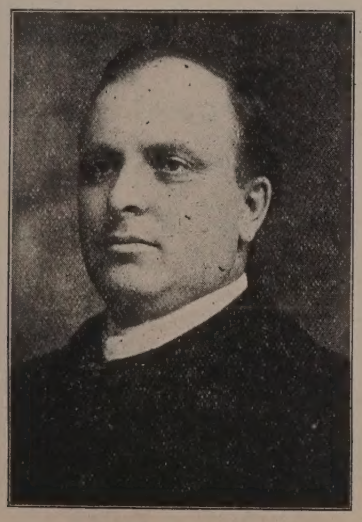
Dr. W. S. Hinman, then pastor of Grace church, in 1899. Rev. C. G. Stacy was secured and began work June 1, 1900. A lot, with chapel, was purchased from the Methodists. Rev. Stacy resigned September 30, 1902, and was followed by Rev. Ira G. Briner, who remained in charge until January 1, 1907. Rev. Lebbeus Woods supplied the congregation for a month, when Rev. J. R. Enger took charge. Under his pastorate the chapel has been removed to the front of the lot and extensively remodeled and improved. The

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH.

property valuation is $7,000, upon which there is a debt of about $3,300. The attendance at services is good for the membership, and a vigorous Sunday-school with an average attendance of about 150 is maintained. The present membership is 53, and the benevolences for the year were in excess of $100.

St. Andrew's.

After preliminary work by Rev. C. W. Seidel, D. D., and later by Rev. Stacy, a Sunday-school was organ-



REV. L. J. MOTSCHMAN.

ized June 17, 1900. Rev. Stacy withdrew November, 1900, devoted his whole time to Cuyler, and Rev. R. L. Patterson, a post-graduate student of the Chicago Lutheran Theological Seminary, was secured for the winter. Rev. S. M. Lutz, took charge May 5, 1901, and resigned November 1, 1903. Without a vacancy Rev. S. H. Yerian became the pastor, and served the congregation until April 1, 1908. The present pastor, Rev. L. J. Motschman, took charge August 1, 1908.

ROGERS PARK CHURCH.

The congregation was organized June 9, 1901, with a membership of 45, Rev. A. Stewart Hartman, D. D., General Secretary of the Home Mission Board, assisting in the services. The present site was secured September 20, 1901, and the first floor of the house was fitted for church services. The present chapel was built in 1902. The present confirmed membership is 115, of which about 60 are in regular communicant relation. The Sunday-school has an enrollment of 168. The property is valued at $7,000, with an indebtedness of $5,000.

Rogers Park.

In response to requests made by Lutherans living in Roger's Park for an English Lutheran church, the Board of Home Missions commissioned the Rev. J. A. Hesson to canvass this field. As a result a congregation was organized January 5, 1902, with 28 members. This mission was fortunate in being able to buy, from the Congregationalists, at much less than its value, for $10,000 a beautiful church, furnished with fine pipe organ and complete equipment. The first service in the new home was held November 6, 1904. Rev. Hesson retired from the pastorate January 1, 1908, and was succeeded by Rev. D. F. Thomas on May 1 of the same year. Unfortunately, because of illness in his home, Rev. Thomas was only able to remain a year with this people. Rev. J. A. Hanning became pastor

REV. J. A. HANNING.

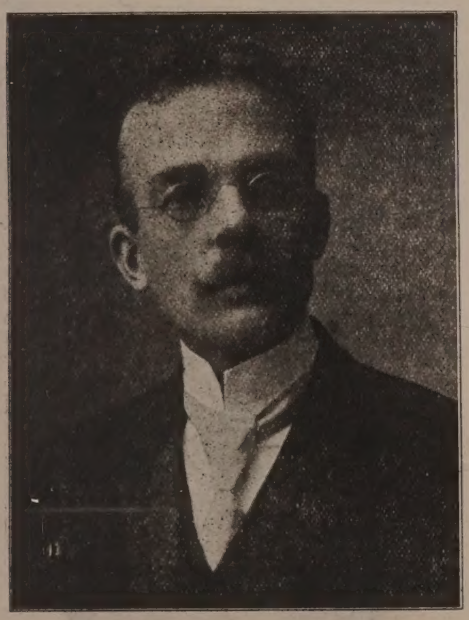
July 1, 1909, and the work has gone ahead without interruption. The present indebtedness is $4,600. The confirmed membership is 90, of which number 72 are in active communicant relation. The Sunday-school has an enrollment of 190. The work is well organized, and with such an excellent property in a beautiful residence district the future of this mission promises well.

Calvary.

Calvary church, in Irving Park, was organized July 24, 1904, with 42 members, the preliminary work having been done by Rev. H. W. Hanshue, then a student

CALVARY CHURCH.

in Wittenberg Theological Seminary. Rev. Chas. P. McLaughlin became the first regular pastor, taking charge September 1 of that year. His resignation took effect October 1, 1906. His successor, Rev. J. M. Bramkamp, became pastor December 1, 1906. A splendid corner lot 65x155 was purchased during Rev. McLaughlin's pastorate, at a cost of $2,200. It is now entirely paid for, and plans have been adopted and arrangements completed to build the beautiful church shown in the adjoining cut. The cost will be about $10,000. The mission has made steady progress. The

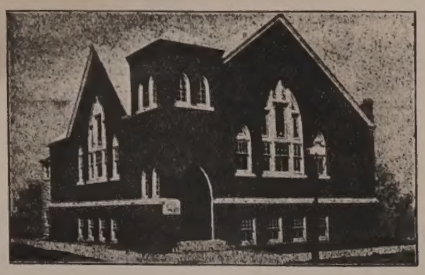


REV. J. M. BRAMKAMP.

confirmed membership is 133, and the Sunday-school has an enrollment of 185, with an average attendance of 120. The past success in a hall for five years only indicates what can be expected of this mission when it gets in its new church home.

People's, Roseland.

This mission is located in the extreme southern part of the city, eight miles from Immanuel, its nearest neighbor. The Sunday-school was organized by Rev. Geo. P. Kabele, February 19, 1905, with 33 in attendance. The congregation was organized June 25 of the same year, with a membership of 18. The lot was bought in 1906, and the church built in 1907. The entire property cost about $8,000. The indebtedness is some $3,600, which is constantly being reduced. The confirmed membership is 100, of which number 29

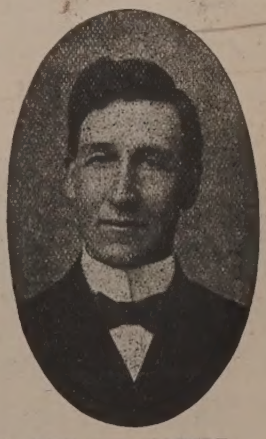


PEOPLE'S CHURCH, ROSELAND.

have been received since January 1. The Sunday-school enrollment is over 200. Rev. Kabele has spent fourteen years in English Lutheran mission work in Chicago. Before beginning the work of this church he was a member of the General Council, having been pastor of St. Matthew's, on the West Side, where he built a church. He has a fruitful field in the midst of a population of at least 50,000 people. The mission is in a prosperous condition and the outlook hopeful.

Unity.

This church has been unusually successful. It is located in the charming Edgewater district. After a mission had been maintained in that section of the city for several years and abandoned because of lack of promise, the Rev. J. N. Lentz, synodical missionary of the Synod of Northern Illinois, made a canvass of the entire section and re-established services in a new location, September 19, 1905, with an attendance at the Bible school of 42 and 22 at church. The congregation was organized November 12, 1905, with 32 members. Rev. Lentz continued in charge of the work until April 1, 1906, during which time the membership had increased to 53, and a church lot purchased for $3,300. Rev. David A. Davy became the first regular pastor on the day the synodical missionary relinquished the work. A beautiful chapel has been erected and the entire property has cost $16,000. A year since an indebtedness of $7,500 was reported. During the winter $1,000 was paid. May 1, an unannounced friend made



REV. G. P. KABELE.

an offer to give $1,000 towards the first mortgage indebtedness of $5,000 provided all was raised by October 7, at which time the mortgage would become due. The Board of Church Extension held a second mortgage of $1,500 and offered to donate part of the amount

provided their indebtedness should be raised by the same date. The undertaking for a mission that had already contributed heavily and constantly was herculean, and to some seemed impossible of accomplishment. But with faith in God and a determination on the part of all to do their utmost the task was undertaken, and October 7th saw every cent of the indebtedness paid. Meanwhile the confirmed membership has increased to 216, of which 175 are active communicants,

UNITY CHAPEL.

and the Bible school has an enrollment of 250, with an attendance of 200. With the indebtedness paid this congregation expects to assume self-support April 1, 1910, the fourth anniversary of the pastor's taking charge. The First church of Altoona, Pa., which, through the Home Mission Board, has supported this mission, has every reason to be proud of its child. In a few years it will doubtless become a strong church.

REV. DAVID A. DAVY.

Hope.

Hope church is the last of our English Lutheran missions organized in the city of Chicago. It is located on the West Side in a growing community of the better working class. Rev. J. N. Lentz held its first session of the Sunday-school November 11, 1906, with an attendance of 43, and the first church service the following Sunday with 40 present. The congregation was organized February 10, 1907, with 67 charter members.

HOPE CHURCH.

April 27th a lot was purchased for $1,500. Rev. G. B. Weaver became the first pastor, taking charge November 1, 1907. His ministry has been fruitful in results. The lot has been entirely paid for, the membership has increased to 111 and the Sunday-school has an enrollment of 200, with an attendance of 175. The beautiful church shown in the accompanying cut is now being erected at a cost of $10,000. The cornerstone was laid July 11, 1909, and the dedication will take place about Thanksgiving. For two years this mission worshiped in halls, one year of which was spent over a saloon. Compelled to leave and unable to secure another place in which to worship, a temporary structure was hastily built on the rear of their present lot. This mission gives promise of developing into a strong congregation.

Church of the Resurrection.

This congregation is in connection with the Wartburg Synod. In the summer of 1904 Rev. Bruno Lederer was called by that body to establish a mission on the North Side of Chicago. He took charge of the work August 1, 1904, at which time he was commissioned by the Board of Home Missions. The church was organized October 30th, with 12 members. Services were held in a store-room. On December 1,

REV. G. B. WEAVER.

1905, a fine brick church building was purchased. It is worth at least $10,000. The debt is less than half that amount. It is located in a densely-populated district, 95 per cent. of the population being German and most of them Lutherans. The present membership is 125. Services are held in both languages, and the prospects for future growth are very bright. It is a cause for congratulation that Rev. Lederer has consented to remain in Chicago, where he is held in the highest esteem by the brethren of the English as well as the German Synod. We regret that we are not able to have your readers look upon his noble countenance.

Bethel (German).

This congregation was organized on the 26th of March, 1890, with 40 members. It was received under the care of the Board on the 1st of April, 1891, at which time Rev. Paul Bieger was commissioned as the missionary. He continued in the pastorate only nine months, when he was succeeded by Rev. A. Freyschmidt on January 1st, 1892, who served the congregation until October 1, 1893. His successor was Rev. Walter Eickman, who remained in the pastorate one year, closing his labors on the first of May, 1895.

Rev. Albert Kaltschuck took charge of the mission January 1st, 1896, and has served the church faithfully and efficiently until the present time. On the first of January, 1903, the congregation assumed its own support.

Tabor.

This is the latest congregation in Chicago to be helped by the Mission Board. The attention of our German brethren was called to the fact that the vicinity

CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION.

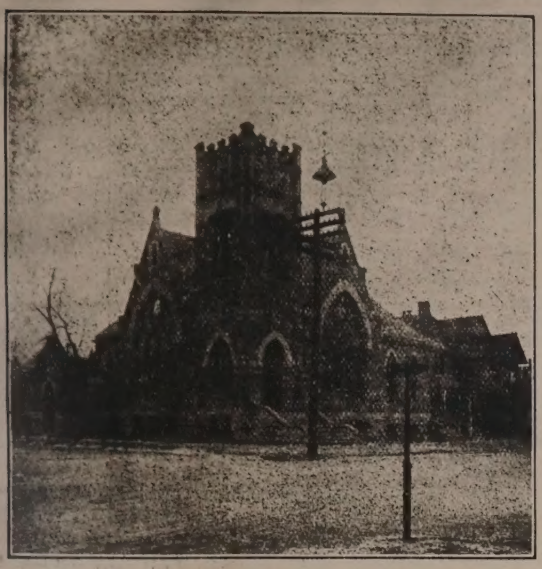
REV. ERNEST MOSER, PH. D.

of Gage park on the Southwest side afforded a hopeful field for a German-English work. Services were begun by the Wartburg Synod early in the summer of 1908, but the man first sent to the community proved to be an unfit person to shepherd the flock, and Rev. E. Moser, Ph. D., of Alberqueque, New Mexico, was urged to accept a call. He took charge July 1, 1908, and soon succeeded in restoring the confidence of the community in the uprightness of our German Lutheran clergy. A lot has been bought and paid for at a cost of $700, and a neat church, ample to the present needs of the community, has been built at a cost of about $5,000. This will be dedicated on Sunday, October 24, 1909, a number of English and German brethren taking part. The present membership is 41, which number will be increased on the Sunday following the dedication. The Sunday-school numbers 70. English services will be regularly held as soon as the congregation is in the new church.

In addition to the twelve churches already referred to, there are two other missions not located within the limits of the city, but in such close proximity to it that they are always thought of as a part of our Chicago mission work, and may be justly included in this sketch of it. They are Evanston and Joliet.

St. Paul's, Evanston.

was organized in April, 1901, with a membership of 11. A preliminary canvass had been effected during several months previous, under the auspices of several Chicago pastors, notably Dr. Hinman and Revs. McLaughlin, Meyer, Lazarus and Reed. The latter, Rev. J. K. Reed, became the first regular pastor, assuming charge of the new enterprise on the first of April, 1901, and served the church with marked fidelity and efficiency until March 1, 1906. The present pastor succeeded him on the first of September, 1906, and has had the joy of seeing the work prospering in his hands. The present church edifice was erected during the pastorate of Rev. Reed, at a cost of about $6,000, the dedicating taking place on the 9th of February, 1905. During the present pastorate the entire interest-bearing debt of $2,300 has been paid, the only indebtedness at present being $2,200 to the Board of Church Extension. The foundations were well laid and the growth has been substantial and steady. The membership is 165. The Sunday-school has an enrollment of 180. Thus in this strong Methodist University settlement a vigorous Lutheran congregation is being established. The pastor is the acting president, as well as secretary, of the Synod of Northern Illinois.



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, JOLIET, ILLS.

This church was organized by the synodical missionary of the Synod of Northern Illinois, February 8, 1903, with a membership of 21. Three months later Rev. H. M. Heilman, D. D., the present pastor, was commissioned as the missionary. The work has progressed rapidly. A lot costing $4,000 has been paid for, and the beautiful church of brick and stone and the adjoining parsonage were built in 1907-1908. The dedication took place May 3, 1908. The cost was $32,000. It is said to be the finest church in the synod, and though a heavy debt, approximating $25,000, remains, both mission and pastor are to be congratulated on what has already been accomplished. The present confirmed membership is 331, while the Sunday-school has an enrollment of 250. Joliet has a large Lutheran constituency, and the fact that a congregation of 330 has been gathered and a magnificent church built in six years' time shows alike the wisdom of the Home Mission Board in entering this field and of the efficiency of the pastor and people in its development.

This brief and in some respects unsatisfactory statement of the efforts of our Home Mission Board in the great city of Chicago will nevertheless reveal The fact that we have here a field of matchless fertility and of unparalleled importance, and that our cultivation of it hitherto has not been without gratifying and remunerating results. With our Church so firmly established and with an excellent local equipment for energetic co-operation with the Board, we may justly anticipate a much more rapid and successful work in the future. The measure of progress in the extension of our Church in this city as elsewhere is conditioned on the measure of support that is accorded the cause of Home Missions—generous giving will result in large growth.

REV. H. M. HEILMAN, D. D.

HOME MISSIONS IN CHICAGO.

Perhaps one of the most serious defects in the administration of the work of Home Missions by the General Synod in its earlier history, embracing especially the first three score years from 1820 to 1880, was its oversight or neglect of the larger cities and more populous centers as the important fields for its operation.

Doubtless the policy at that time was one of necessity rather than of choice, owing to the limited financial support extended to the cause by the Church. The few thousand dollars contributed by the Church for Home Missions seemed to our fathers to be more wisely invested by appropriating it to a larger number of struggling congregations over a wide extent of territory, in small amounts, than by limiting it to a smaller number of fields though they were located in the more populous centers and at more strategic points.

As a result of that policy, many small and unimportant fields were occupied by mission churches, which maintained a struggling existence for a few years, and then were abandoned, and the growing centers, with their fields of rich promise, were passed by, because of the greater cost involved in occupying them. An occasional tentative effort was made in such cities as Pittsburg, Pa., Cleveland, Ohio, Chicago, Ills., Kansas City, Mo., Denver, Col., Portland, Oregon, and others, but after a brief effort the work was discontinued, because the financial problem, which met the new enterprise at the very threshold of its existence, was too difficult of solution, with the meager aid that could be given by the Church towards the support of the pastor and the securing of a house of worship.

The account of our mission work in Chicago, given in this issue of the OBSERVER by Rev. J. F. Seibert, Synodical Missionary, goes back only about 27 years, to the time when Grace church was established by Rev. Lee M. Heilman in 1882.

But 24 years prior to that time, a hopeful effort was made under the auspices of the Home Missionary Society of the General Synod, with Rev. Charles Martin, D. D., as the missionary. He was commissioned on the first of July, 1858, and effected an organization of 20 members, and had a Sunday-school enrollment of 35. He retired from the pastorate at the end of nine months, on April 1st, 1859; and was succeeded by Rev. George A. Bowers, D. D., on the 12th of May following. He continued in charge of the mission until August 12th, 1860, a period of fifteen months, when he retired; and the work was discontinued, and the sad record that was made by the Secretary in reference to it on the books of the Society, is as follows: "*Mission abandoned as a failure August 12th, 1860.*" In that early effort in the heart of that young and growing city of the expanding Central West of our nation, soon to become its proud and potential metropolis, lay splendid possibilities for our Church, but they were unwisely surrendered because of a few thousand dollars that were needed to adequately support the pastor and to hold the valuable church property.

An effort was also made about the same time by the General Synod in behalf of our Scandinavian people in that city, but after one year's work with Rev. Erland Carlson as missionary, aid was withdrawn.

So far as we know no attempt was made to establish

a church by the General Synod in Chicago until about the first of January, 1880, when a German mission was supported for one year, when aid was withdrawn.

After the establishment of Grace English Lutheran Church in 1882, the Board assisted in the support of several missions which are not referred to in the narrative prepared by Mr. Seibert.

These were St. Mark's, German, Rev. J. D. Severinghaus, D. D., missionary, 1883-1886.

Jewish, Rev. S. D. Berger, missionary, 1885-1887.

St. Thomas, German, Rev. Franz Weigman, missionary from May 1st, 1890 to February 1st, 1893. Rev. Jacob Zentner from September 1st, 1893 to December 1st, 1894.

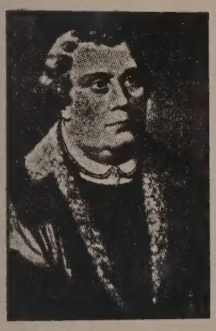
Nazareth, Revs. A. W. Hillerbrandt, Emil Bockelmann, and Carl Heinrich, the three pastorates extending from February 1st, 1891, to November, 1893.

The Jewish mission was discontinued because it was not sufficiently successful. The two latter, St. Thomas and Nazareth, after receiving aid for a few years, showed their disloyalty and ingratitude to the General Synod by forsaking it.

Though these three of four missionary efforts did not bring to the General Synod much in the way of permanent results of remunerative character: yet the labor and the money expended were not without beneficent effects.

A. Stewart Hartman,
General Secretary B. H. M.

Baltimore, Md.



27th ANNUAL

Sunday-school Offering

FOR

HOME MISSIONS

LUTHER SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 14, 1909.

MY ENDEAVOR.

To be joyous in my work, moderate in my pleasures, chary in my confidences, faithful in my friendships; to be energetic but not excitable, enthusiastic but not fanatical, loyal to the truth as I see it but ever open-minded to the newer light; to discourage shams and rejoice in all that is beautiful and true; to do my work and live my life so that neither shall require defense or apology; to honor no one simply because rich or famous, and despise no one because humble or poor; to be gentle and considerate toward the weak, respectful yet self-respecting toward the great, courteous to all, obsequious to none; to seek wisdom from great books and inspiration from good men; to invigorate my mind with noble thoughts as I do my body with sunshine and fresh air; to prize all sweet human friendships and seek to make at least one home happy; to have charity for the erring, sympathy for the sorrowing, cheer for the despondent; to be indifferent to none, helpful to some, friendly with all; to leave the world a little better off because of me; and to leave it, when I must, bravely and cheerfully, with faith in God and good will to all my fellow-men—this shall be my endeavor during the coming life.—J. H. Tewksbury.

Our Young Lutherans.

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY-SCHOOL LESSON.

Fourth Quarter: Lesson VI. November 7, 1909.

Paul a Prisoner—The Shipwreck. Acts xxvii. 39–44; xxviii 1–10.

Golden Text.—"The Lord redeemeth the soul of his servants; and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate." Ps. xxxiv. 22.

COMMENTS BY PROF. J. A. SINGMASTER, D. D.

In our last lesson was begun the story of the ill-fated voyage of the Roman centurion and his noble prisoner, Paul, whom the former was conducting to Rome.

The crisis came on the fourteenth day, when the vessel was cast away on the shores of Melita (Malta). To-day's lesson describes the wreck. The situation was most distressing. The vessel was sadly damaged, the lading was in part lost, the people exhausted and demoralized. Paul alone seemed calm and confident, having received divine assurance of protection for himself and, for his sake, for the people on the ship. The ship was fast approaching the rocks when four anchors were cast out of the stern to hold her. The sailors, seeing a chance to escape, were launching the boat under the pretence of carrying anchors also out of the foreship, when they were detected by the quick eye of Paul, who informed the centurion and soldiers. When they understood that their safety depended on the presence of the sailors in the ship, they set the boat adrift. Thus Paul became a co-worker with God in saving the people.

While the day was coming on Paul encouraged the people to take food, assuring them of their safe deliverance. Having publicly given thanks to God, he broke the bread and began to eat. The 275 fellow-voyagers, inspired by his words and example, also ate and were of good cheer. After their repast they lightened the ship by casting the wheat overboard.

I. Saved from the Sea (xxvii. 39–41).

The Vessel Beached.—When the day dawned the sailors did not recognize the land, though they must have been familiar with many parts of Malta. But they had drifted and lost their bearings. Perceiving an inlet with a sandy beach "they took counsel whether they could drive the ship upon it." They made the effort. First they cut or cast off the cables which held the anchors, leaving them in the sea. Then they loosed the two oar-like rudders, which had been fastened while they were drifting, but which they now needed to steer the ship into the inlet. Then hoisting the foresail to the wind they made for the beach.

At a point "where two seas met" or two currents came together, the vessel grounded. Driven by the tempest, it ran into the mud where the prow stuck fast and "the stern began to break up by the violence of the waves." The effort to run the ship ashore was, therefore, not quite successful, for it was still some distance from dry land.

The Prisoners' Peril.—A new peril now confronted Paul and his fellow prisoners. Fearing lest any of them should swim out and escape, the soldiers' counsel was to kill the prisoners. Under the Roman law a soldier was in peril of his life should he allow a prisoner to escape from his custody. The brutal soldiery, not appreciating the extraordinary circumstances nor their obligation to their chief prisoner, Paul, were ready to sacrifice their best friend and providential protector. The centurion, however, was a more intelligent and honorable man. Having come into closer